THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Report is full of anomalies and, therefore, it is not possible to draw any conclusion out of the same.

The factual position and details are like this. In connection with the formulation of the Eighth Plan (1990—95), a Working Group on "Urban Water Supply and Sanitation" was constituted by the Planning Commission. The Group estimated a requirement of Rs. 8850 crores for Urban Water Supply to achieve 100% population coverage. In the context of the Eighth Plan (1992—97), the Ministry of Urban Development re-estimated the updated requirement at Rs. 14.844 crores which included a requirement of Rs. 1400 crores for water supply to small towns with population less than 20,000. Due to financial constraints and other competing demands, the Plan included an outlay of Rs. 5982.28 crores in the State/UT Plans and Central Plan and suggested that the future project on urban water supply should increasingly rely on institutional finance.

As regards allocation of Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for small towns with population less than 20,000, the correct figures are as under:

States	Amount allocated	
	As indicated in the report of Pioneer	Correct figures as per Min. of Urban Dev.
Bihar	Rs. 26.06 crores	Rs. 61.15 lakhs
J. & K.	Rs. 5.91 crores	Rs. 5.91 lakhs
Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 296.27 crores	Rs. 296.27 lakhs
Delhi	Rs. 1.77 crores	Rs. 1.77 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Due to the financial constraint and other competing demands, the Eighth Plan included an outlay of Rs. 50 crores only in the Central Plan with the matching provision in the State Sector to initiate the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for small towns with population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census). As the total estimated financial requirement was much larger at about Rs. 1400 crores, it was not possible to fix up any definite physical target.

As regards the actual achievement, it is stated that the first release of Central assistance to States by the Ministry of Urban Development under the scheme amounting to Rs. 11.715 crores as 25% of the Central share of the total approved project cost in respect of 147 towns in the country could be possible only towards the end of March 1994. So far none of the State Governments have reported progress of work done.

Committee on Water Rates Charged from the Farmers

1893. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee on water rates charged from the farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government are seriously contemplating an increase in the water rates charged from the farmers;

(c) if so, whether there was any interaction with the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission had set-up a Committee as an Internal Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan in October 1991 to study the present status of irrigation water pricing in various states, its impact on financial management of irrigation works and to suggest remedial measures. Amongst the members on the Committee, there were six members from the selected States also. The above Committee has since submitted their Report to Planning Commission in September 1992. Subsequently, the Planning Commission have set up a Group of Officials including representatives from selected nine States to go into the recommendations made in the Report. Irrigation being a "State subject", decision on water rates can be taken only by the State Governments and Union Territories.